

# Research Results on Three Holbert Sisters Dying on the Same Day in 1902 in Flanagan, Illinois

## Initial Question

Three of my relatives supposedly all died on June 28, 1902 in Flanagan. Their names.....Sarah Holbert, Agnes Holbert Springer, and Addie Holbert Miller White. How can I find out about this ?

Any help is greatly appreciated

## Ancestry.Com

A family tree was constructed in Ancestry.com with the three sisters all dying on the same day, June 28, 1902, in Flanagan, Illinois.

## Parents of the three sisters from Ancestry.com



**William Patterson Holbert**

**B:** 16 Dec 1833 Washington Co., PA

**D:** 15 Jan 1908 Protection, Comanche, Kansas, United States


**Sophia Jane Plough**

**B:** 11 Nov 1839 Ohio, United States

**D:** 25 July 1919 Hennepin, Putnam County, Illinois, United States of America

They were married in Putnam County, Illinois, per Ancestry.com. She was only 15 and he was 21. They had 12 children. {I suspect 12 is incorrect because of remarriages of both father and mother}

1854  
15

**Marriage**  
1854 • Putnam, Illinois, United States  
 **William Patterson Holbert**  
(1833-1908)

## 1850 Census

Household Members	Name	Age
	John Plough	57
	Sarah Plough	50
	Sophia J Plough	13
	George W Plough	9

so mother of the 3 sisters was Sophia j. Plough, and in 1850 she was living with her parents in Putham County, IL. She had a 9 year old brother, George W. Plough.

## 1860 Census

Parents of the 3 sisters were living in Putnam County. The mother's brother, George Plough was living with them, also her mother Sarah Plough. They had 3 kids at that point: Sarah A. Holbert, John A. Holbert, and Mary Jane Holbert.

Household Members	Name	Age
	Wm P Holbert	26
	Sophia J Holbert	22
	Sarah A Holbert	5
	John A Holbert	
	Mary Jane Holbert	1
	Geo Plough	19
	Sarah Plough	57

# 1870 Census

Parents of the 3 sisters still living in Putnam County. Their children at that point were Sarah A., John A., Agnes A., and Addie L. Holbert.

Household Members	Name	Age
	William Holbert	36
	Sophia J Holbert	32
	Sarah A Holbert	14
	John A Holbert	13
	Agnes A Holbert	9
	Addie L Holbert	6

The mother of the 3 sisters married at least two other times per Ancestry.com. So far, the mother has shown no connection to Livingston County and Flanagan. She has always been in Putnam County.

Let’s look at the 3 sisters now.

# 1870 Census

All 3 sisters are living at home in Putnam County.

Name	Age
William Holbert	36
Sophia J Holbert	32
Sarah A Holbert	14
John A Holbert	13
Agnes A Holbert	9
Addie L Holbert	6

## 1880 Census

The father had remarried and moved to Kansas.

Household Members	Name	Age
	William Holbert	46
	Jenie E. Holbert	32

None of the 3 sisters were living with him.

## 1900 Census

Mother had remarried to a Mr. Moses Koontz and still lived in Putnam County.

## Sarah A. Holbert

She was in the 1860 and 1870 Census, but she drops off the “radar screen” after the 1870 Census.

If she died in 1902, she would have been 46 years of age.

No hits in Newspapers.com or Pantagraph archives.... Or Genealogybank.com

## 1877 and 1907 Putnam County History Books

No hits on Holbert name in either book.


## Agnes Ardell Holbert

She married Mr. Springer in 1880. She was 19 and he was 43. They had 8 children. They were married in Pontiac, so here is finally a connection relatively close to Flanagan, where the 3 sisters all supposedly died.

1880  
19

**Marriage**

11 Jun 1880 • Pontiac Township, Livingston, Illinois, United States

 **Reason E. Springer**  
(1837-1898)

1 source

Edit

Explore

Her grave stone in Earp Cemetery in cornell does document her death date.

## Earp Cemetery

Burial or Cremation Place Cornell, Livingston County, Illinois,

## 1900 Census

Agnes was widowed living with her children in Long Point, which is also relatively close to Flanagan. None of her sisters were living with her, just her 8 children.

Her husband died in 1898 at the age of 60. She probably had a tough time raising a bunch of kids, on the census she gave her occupation as farmer and owned her own house.

Agnes was 41 when she died in 1902.

## June 24, 1902, Daily Leader

The newspaper said she was ill, but doing better. Apparently, she was not doing better if she died on June 22<sup>nd</sup> !!



Unfortunately, no obit for her in the Leader or Pantagraph.

August 29, 1902, Fairbury Blade

See last paragraph:

**Probate Court.**  
[Judge White's Court.]  
David Holmes, deceased; Robert Holmes executor, Proof made of publication and posting of notices for adjustment of claims.  
William Fuchs, sr., deceased, Balthas Fuchs, administrator, Proof made of publication and posting of notices for adjustment of claims. Inventory approved.  
Nettie P. Decker, William Roy Decker, minors; B. Johnson guardian, Petition to sell real estate filed. Proof made of service of notice on wards and posting of notices of filing of petition. Hearing in open court. Bond of \$3,000 approved. Decree of sale.  
Daniel R. King, deceased; Christian R. Egle, executor, Proof of death, Proof of service of notice on heirs and legatees for probate of will. Will proven and ordered recorded. Ordered that letters testamentary issue to Christian R. Egle under bond of \$7,000. Bond approved.  
Reason Springer, deceased; J. P. Guernsey administrator de bonis non. Inventory approved. Proof made of service of notice on heirs for final settlement. Report shows claims and costs fully paid with balance on hand for distribution of \$1,011.05, which he is ordered to turn over to legally appointed guardian of minor children. Report approved. Ordered that administrator and bond be discharged on filing receipt of guardian.

September 3, 1902, Daily Leader

Pontiac Daily Leader September 3, 1902

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## COUNTY COURT.

Before Judge F. G. White:

Reason E., Nellie, Mable M., Edna R., William N., Ruth N., and Charles C. **Springer**, minors. Letters of guardianship issued to John F. Snyder under bond of \$4,500.

James E. White, deceased. Obituary.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sister Addie Louise Holbert

#### 1900 Census.

She was married to William Miller and living in Pontiac. She married him 1 year earlier in 1899. There were 5 children in the household. Since she had only been married for 1 year, only Helen Miller, age 1, would be her child. Mr. Miller must have been married before?

Household members		
	Name	Age
	William Miller	48
	Addie Miller	34
	Cleas Dunn	19
	Myrtle Miller	13
	Ford Miller	9
	Howard Miller	3
	Helen Miller	1

Addie was only 38 if she died in 1902.

#### Conditions in 1900 Census 2 years before the 3 sisters died?

Sarah A. Holbert was 44, not married, and we don't know where she was living in 1900. If she died in 1902, she was only 46 when she died. There is no verification of her 1902 death date.

Agnes Ardell Holbert was 39, a widow for 2 years, trying to keep a farm running and support several minor children in Long Point. She was only 41 when she died. Her gravestone supports her 1902 death.

Addie Louise Holbert was 34, married for 1 year to a man who already had 4 children before he married her. Addie might have been the mother of 1 year old Helen Miller. She was the youngest to die in 1902 at the age of 36. She was living in Pontiac. Her 1902 death date is supported by the Leader article about appointing a guardian for her children.

So if the family lore story is correct, it is rather bizarre that 3 sisters all died on the same day in Flanagan. Two of the 3 sisters were in the Flanagan area in 1900 per the Census.

Maybe someday, this mystery will be solved!

There was a Centennial book made for Flanagan in 1981. We have 2 copies in the Historical Society archives. If I get a chance, I will check this book for any info on the Holbert sisters. As far as I can tell, Flanagan had no newspaper in 1902.

Dale C. Maley  
President – Livingston County Historical Society  
Fairbury, Illinois

April 2, 2024

